

## **Regarding the potential transfer of \$5M from the Community Investment Act fund**

As a suburban mother and wife, concerned with my family's health and well-being, I am familiar with the Community Investment Act (CIA) and its vital role in the Connecticut Farmland Protection Program. I am very worried about the possibility that the CIA account will lose \$5 million that should be supporting the fund's original purpose. Transferring this money out of the fund will mean losing staff members that make CIA activities possible.

**Those CIA funds were collected from homeowners like me to enhance our lives and communities, not to disappear into a black hole. I can see the results of the CIA program every week** in the Connecticut Grown signs at my grocery store, at the local farmers' markets, and in the open farm space that the CIA helps to preserve. The CIA fund will help to preserve local produce and dairy farming, so that we can get the freshest vegetables and milk. At a time when more than two-thirds of the people in this country, including many children, are overweight, these fresh foods are a great way to make healthy eating more appealing.

**Please leave the CIA funds where they are! Nothing is more important than food, and preserving local farms means preserving a secure source of wholesome food.**

Thank you.

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